

FIUME AND THE RED FLAG

The workers of Jugo-Slavia have not shared their government's indignation at the rape of Fiume. There is something more important to be done than to save a port for the trading class of their land. The workers are busy building a revolutionary movement to match the glorious one in Italy, to be ready to join the Italian comrades when the hour has struck for the "final conflict."

"When the Red Flag waves over Fiume," they say, "the workers of Italy and Jugo-Slavia will not quarrel as to who shall have the use of this entry." "We will try something the capitalists have never thought of doing with the things of this world we will share Fiume as comrades should."

The workers of Jugo-Slavia are convinced that Italy and their own land will rise in common. D'Annunzio they regard, therefore, as the mere representative of expiring Italian imperialism, and his feverish activities seem to them the effort of the reaction to save itself by a last great romantic lie, that must inevitably expose itself for what it is.

Labor is not perturbed nor even interested in this and the myriad other imperialist squabbles that trouble the members of the Balkan diplomats. It is building, building on; and a magnificent structure has already risen out of the misery and ashes of the war.

The Communist Party of Jugo-Slavia, with its 120,000 members and its unchallenged control over the trades unions, is the most formidable factor in the nation's political life. It is allied in fact, and in revolutionary ardor with the Third International. Its strength must not be gauged by the party membership, though in tiny Belgrade it is stronger numerically than the French Socialist party is in all Paris.

For the trades unions have affiliated closely and whole-heartedly with it; and on November 16 last, the organization of soldier invalids, numbering 270,000 members, joined in congress with the Communist Party to demand that provision be made for these victims of the war, and that peace with Russia be consummated immediately.

All conditions make for inevitable social war in Jugo-Slavia. In Belgrade, for instance, the workers' pay has increased four times over the pre-war scale, while the cost of living has gone up ten times. Women factory workers receive 3 to 8 dinars a day (about 15 to 40 cents), while the most highly skilled worker, such as the printer, is paid no more than 30 dinars (1 dol. 50 cents) a day. Contrast with

the fact that a loaf of bread costs 2 dinars, a pound of sugar, 15 dinars; a pair of shoes, 250-280 dinars; a suit of clothing 600-800 dinars, and one sees that something must crack soon.

The army is mutinous and the despair of a general revolt. In preparation for a revolt, the Belgrade ministry is retaining about 100,000 troops under arms and has organised a gendarmerie of 25,000 during the past four months as an additional means of intimidating the workers. But all has not gone well with these best-laid plans, for many of the gendarmes have openly affiliated with the Communist Party. Recently, too, the military leaders refused to send their troops to fight Soviet Russia, on the grounds that such a move would be equivalent to sending reinforcements to the Red Army. There is but one regiment that can be counted on by the government to smash strikes and guard military meetings, and it is made up mainly of Albanians and Montenegrins.

Of the 31 members of the Communist Party's Central Executive committee, eight are professors of science in State colleges. I was one of their group at the Narodni Dom one morning when Philip Philipovitch, one of their most important leaders, entered the hall. There were little knots of laborers about, and they interrupted their conversation to greet him with cries of "Good morning, Comrade!" It was a cordial welcome, but commonplace enough when I discovered that this was the return of Philipovitch from four months spent in prison. "What do such episodes amount to, in the heat of the revolutionary conflict?" Philipovitch smiled when I commented on his arrest and return. The Jugo-Slav workers knew that there will be greater sacrifices demanded of more than a few months in jail. They are ready to make these sacrifices.

Radnitchke Novine, the communist organ in Belgrade, has the second largest circulation of all the Jugo-Slavian dailies. The communist press, with influential publications in Agram, Sarajevo, Split and Osijek, has everywhere doubled its circulation since the war. The reactionary journals out-number the Bolshevik, but have not a shred of real influence. For instance, after an ardent campaign conducted in the conservative press in October, calling the people out to demonstrate against Italy, only a scant thousand responded in Belgrade. On the other hand, a short notice in Radnitchke Novine can always bring at least 15,000 workers into the streets in solidarity with an imprisoned comrade, or to cheer the Soviet Republic, or to rejoice in the victory

of the Socialists of Italy.

The unions enter unanimously into every movement initiated by the Communists; there is wonderful class-conscious solidarity, united and intelligent. If the Communist party errs, it is in underestimating its own power; as when in the July strike for Soviet Russia, it sent its order for a general walkout only to the large industrial centres. The toilers in the small villages and towns received no such instructions, and yet thousands of them joined in the strike spontaneously.

The peasants of Jugo-Slavia, comprising 85 per cent. of the population of 14,000,000, are permeated with the revolutionary ideas. With the exception of small blocks of small land-owners in Serbia, the agrarian toilers of Croatia, Slovenia, Dalmatia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Macedonia, and Banat, most of them still oppressed by the weight of Turkish feudalism, are looking to communism for relief. Even the small proprietors of Serbia, hitherto aloof, claimed representation at the revolutionary Congress in August, when the following program was adopted by the peasants:

- 1.—Expropriation of landowners, and redistribution of the land among the peasants;
- 2.—Complete emancipation of the industrial and agricultural proletariat;
- 3.—Establishment of schools throughout the nation;
- 4.—Decrease in the cost of living by socialisation of all land and capital.

More than 82 per cent. of all the peasants own less than 10 hectares, or 25 acres, each. This explains their discontent and readiness to support a communist revolution. About 55 per cent. of them own under 12 acres each, and this coupled with the terrifically high cost of everything bought from the cities, has reduced the peasant to almost penury.

The educational demands of both the land and industrial proletariat finds an explanation in the fact that 75 per cent. of the population of Jugo-Slavia is illiterate, and that the schools of the nation have been closed for the past five years. The workers realise that if the next generation is to be saved from total illiteracy it will only be through proletarian initiative.

Despite pressure from the entente and their own desire to strangle the Russian revolution, the rulers of Jugo-Slavia have not dared to support the White reactionaries in their military designs. In the camps of Valievo and Cmedrevo, Russian prisoners from Austria are flooded with

propaganda of the reaction. The government still sagely keeps from sending reinforcements to the junctured judenitch-Denikins front, however. It knows that the workers of Jugo-Slavia will tolerate no counter-revolutionary steps, and that the army is more likely to capture Belgrade for the revolution than Petrograd for the capitalists.

That recruiting for the White military forces has been attempted in Serbia it is true, but communist agitation has made the effort a vain one. In America thousands of Jugo-Slavs have been lured into joining the White army, however, and on November 25 the Communist party of Jugo-Slavia issued an appeal to their American comrades, warning them against the counter-revolutionaries in their midst, and calling on them to stand by Soviet Russia. One-half of the Slavie-American legions recruited in the United States, when transferred to the Russian front, have deserted to the Soviet forces, it is known here.

The Jugo-Slav government at the present time is but the tool of French bankers, who now own the most productive lead, copper, gold, graphite and aluminium mines in Jugo-Slavia. The currency of the Royal Serbian treasury is guaranteed by this French financial group, and 30,000 French troops have been concentrated in this country to guard the sacred interests of the Parisian capitalists.

The French troops have proved almost as unsatisfactory as the native forces, however. In November, for instance, the French owners of a copper mine at Bor discharged a union man who was making Bolshevik speeches among the workers there. A few minutes after his dismissal every miner had thrown down his tools, and a strike was called. The French summoned their troops, but these proved quite apathetic, and the strike was won. In the general strike of July 21st, when all Jugo-Slavia was boiling with revolt, the French troops stationed in Agram refused to move against the workers, and instead sent a message of solidarity to the Communist party.

The revolutionary tide in Jugo-Slavia is rushing headlong to its fulfilment, and neither French capitalism, Belgrade suppression, nor D'Annunzian medievalism can swerve the mighty river from its historic course. When Italy rises, Jugo-Slavia will be ready to join her, and as comrades, the two nations will ignore such tiny problems as Fiume in solving the greater problems of poverty, illiteracy, competition and war.

Frederick Kuh in the "Liberator."

The State and the Revolution

Lenin's masterpiece, "The State and the Revolution," would be a mere work of textual criticism for students only were it not that in the proletarian revolution theory and practice are vivid with life derived the one from the other.

Other movements can carry their carpet-baggers. Political aspirants spring with the necessary watchwords on their lips, and the interests that employ them,

the political parties they serve, require no further guarantee of fidelity. The economic stranglehold is enough. But the proletarian movement has no such economic stranglehold upon its leaders. The only criterion is the uncompromising principle of the class struggle, and the renunciation of all truck with bourgeois boodle that it involves.

Karl Marx formulated the principles of

the proletarian revolution, involved as they are in a true perception of the machinery of the capitalist State. Frederick Engels continued to fill in the gaps in the statement after Marx's death, and the unanimity of these two master minds is wonderful to behold. Just as ordinary intelligent mortals come to the same infallible answer to a multiplication sum, so Marx and Engels worked out the implications of the law of social growth to the same exact reply. They were the philosophers of the First Workingmen's International, which ended with the Paris Commune.

In that revolt of the working men of Paris some men only see a dismal failure. But although Karl Marx had warned the workers against attempting the impossible, Marx as the man of universal heart as well as universal brain shone out and he acclaimed their feat as one of "storming heaven." The pages of his "Civil War in France" should be read by those anarchist misanthropes who never tire of blaming the workers. It glows with unbounded faith and pride in the working class. But from the Paris Commune, that naive administration by the

Continued on page 3.

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Judge Curlew and Work

Judge Curlew, in the Industrial Court,
May 17, said in answer to an application
for a 44-hour week and the terms of a
Federal Award on behalf of the flour
millers, "What you would like would be
£10 a week and no work at all."

He afterwards qualified his statement
by saying that what he intended to imply
was that "what everybody would like is
very little work and plenty of money for
it."

It is always noticeable that when these
minions of the master-class address mem-
bers of the working-class, they do not
trouble to follow out their remarks to
their logical conclusion. It would be, of
course, a crime, did any of the workers
desire pay without work, but the fact
that the whole of the ruling class live in
luxury, although they "toil not, neither
do they spin," is quite overlooked; so also
is the fact that this same luxury is ob-
tained from the unpaid labor of the toil-
ing masses.

So far as desiring very little work is
concerned, Judge Curlew is correct, and
we are quite justified in our desire, seeing
that statistics prove to us that approxi-
mately two hours' work a day would be
sufficient to keep the community reason-
ably supplied with the good things of
life. In that case, however, production
would be carried on for USE, not for
PROFIT, and EVERYBODY would have
to work, including those individuals whose
robes and wigs strike terror into the
hearts of so many unfortunate victims of
the system.

When we consider the fat, comfortable
billets of some of these master-class satel-
lites, it is no wonder that they crush with
an iron hand any attempt on the part of
the working class to obtain better condi-
tions. Their interest lies in the upkeep
of the class they serve; hence their at-
tempts to stave off the inevitable day
when they will be consigned to the only
existing class—the working class.

'Memorandum'

As forwarded to the
Prime Minister by P. Simonoff

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A.S.P. Literature Department

THE
Revolutionary Outlook.

"COLOURED SOLDIERS"

During his journey through France, Mr.
Watt stated he had experienced difficul-
ties on account of the Railway Strike. He
also made the significant remark that in
Paris the railways were guarded by COLO-
URED troops.

When we consider the statements of the
Press, to the effect that the back of the
strike was broken, that the troops answer-
ed almost to a man the call to assist the
French Government, and quite a lot of the
usual press "dope," and then compare
them with this incidental remark of Mr.
Watt, the latter is most significant, and
should convince us of two things at least.

One is yet another proof of the lying
and unreliable information circulated by
medium of the capitalist press; and sec-
ondly, the encouraging state of affairs in
France.

If colored troops are being used to
guard the railways, it is pretty certain
that it is because the white ones refused
the job. Evidently the workers are solid
in their fight against the French master-
class, and the soldiers have realised their
class position and are supporting them,
hence the employment of colored troops.

The wish of the employing class is, of
course, father to their statements in the
Press; but we of the working class can
only wish our French comrades the great-
est success in their struggle; and also hope
that the colored men who are at present
supporting the government, will soon
come to the understanding of which way
their interest lies, and cast their lot in
likewise with their white fellow-workers.

GEN. BOOTH, PEDDLER OF HELL-
FIRE AND DAMNATION

At the welcome to General Booth the
State Governor mentioned that the Sal-
vation Army had spent £3,000,000 on war
work.

Surely a great achievement for the fol-
lowers of the Prince of Peace. To assist
in prolonging the inferno of blood, terror
and slaughter is, of course, quite correct
in an organisation which is run in the in-
terests of the dominant class in society,
and General Booth made, for once, a true
statement when he stated that the Army
"might be set out to be an asset of civil-
isation, and an asset of the British Em-
pire."

Christianity in any form is an asset al-
ways to the master class. It is one of his
great weapons; it teaches, "slaves be ob-
edient to your masters," and that is what
is necessary for good profits and greater
exploitation.

The British Empire to the class-con-
scious individual is simply a territory
where capitalism reigns supreme, where
luxury is enjoyed by the few and poverty
and want experienced by the many. The
Salvation Army assists in keeping the
"many" in ignorance, and attempts to
make them contented and acquiescent in
their misery by promising "crowns of
glory," etc., bye and bye, and conse-
quently is certainly an "asset" to the
British Empire, as it exists to-day.

When the workers have emerged from
the slough of ignorance, and inaugurated
the Socialist Republic (as they assuredly
will), they will need no assets after the
style of the "Army." Science will finally
conquer superstition and General Booth
and his followers will sink into oblivion.

LET US PRAY.

Mr. Storey, our State Premier, desires
the Churches to pray for rain, and as
weather indications point to wet, and the
prayers are to continue until the drought
breaks, they look like being granted IN
TIME at any rate.

Mr. Storey is beginning well, by cur-
rying favor with the religious fanatics, and
while we are all praying for rain, maybe
we'll forget such things as cold, hunger,
44-hour weeks and such like minor mat-
ters, but those who put such implicit faith
in Mr. Storey's promises had better be-
ware; if he goes on like this he may tell
them to pray for all their fond hopes to
be realised. However, in that respect they
are just as likely to get them one way as
another. We have no faith in Mr. Storey
or prayers either, and the sooner all the
workers come around to this way of
thinking the better.

The time for faith in leaders and super-
stitious rites has gone by. Our class must
have trust in themselves, and then things
will start moving for their uplifting and
improvement. And although, of course,
the weather is beyond man's control un-
der a sane system, a close study of eli-
matic conditions, and a careful husband-
ing and use of all resources at our dis-
posal will, no doubt, go much further to-
wards alleviating the difficulties and
troubles attendant on the periodical
droughts, than all Mr. Storey's prayers.

"ST. JOAN OF ARC."

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONIES.

LONDON, May 16.

Sixty cardinals, 400 bishops, and
25,000 French pilgrims, including 120
members of Parliament, participated in
the impressive ceremony at the canon-
isation of St. Joan of Arc, at St.
Peter's, Rome. Scores of women swoon-
ed, owing to the heat and the oppres-
siveness of the atmosphere, laden with
incense.

Pageants and commemoration ser-
vices were held at Notre Dame, Paris
and Westminster Cathedral, London.

—Telegraph, May 18th.

We have here another example of the
hypocrisy by which the Romish Church
seeks to whitewash its past action of being
responsible for the death and burning of
Joan of Arc.

A close study of French history goes to
prove that Joan of Arc was a simple peas-
ant girl, who, carried away by intense
zeal for her country, constituted herself
as its deliverer; also that her anxiety was
by no means for the king and nobility,
but for her class, she attributed the ter-
rible conditions of the French peasants at
that time to the rule of the English and
believed that once the foreign yoke was
removed, conditions would improve.

Her wondrous success was, of course,
due to the fact of the superstitious awe
with which the soldiers of both armies re-
garded her. The French, looking upon
her as an angel sent to help them, and the
English regarded her as a sign that God
was not with them.

For political reasons the French clergy
and nobles wanted her out of the way,
when their turn was served, but as she
was beloved by the proletariat class, it
was necessary to act warily. Consequently
they betrayed her into the hands of the
English. The Church found her guilty of
witchcraft and the State condemned her
to be burnt.

Now, hundreds of years after the same
Church has decided upon Joan of Arc's
canonisation, also for political reasons;
and henceforth she will be regarded as a
Holy Saint; she is no longer dangerous to
its interest, but it is quite safe to say that
if she was alive now and took the part
of the French workers in their present
struggle against their masters, which from
what history tells us of her, she most
certainly would, the Church would not
look upon her as a saint, but would brand
her as a fit candidate for the deepest gulf
of perdition.

LEST WE FORGET.

ALLEGED VICTIMISATION.

J. Warner stated that he had told
Sir Walter Davidson that the names of
Messrs. A. Vernon, secretary of the
United Laborers' Union, and J. Flet-
cher, secretary of the Cabmen's Union,
had been submitted to Ministers as a
committee of enquiry into the treat-
ment of men at Matraville, but the Gov-
ernment had declined to accept them,
and had submitted the name of Mr.
Cameron instead. The men were indig-
nant about this, and the inquiry was
not set on foot. "The Government,"
he said, "is doing its best to victimise
the four men concerned in the trouble—
to victimise us worse than any other
Government."

Mr. Storey, he said, had agreed to
meet the men yesterday, but had slip-
ped out the back way and left the
crowd of men in the lurch. They had
hooted when they found what Mr.
Storey had done.

—The "Sun," May 18th.

OBITUARY

It is with much regret that we record
the decease of Comrade Mrs. Gaffin, who
died on Friday last, May 14th.

Our late comrade was a keen, sincere
and consistent worker for the cause of
working class emancipation; one who
spoke her mind fearlessly, and who, with-
al, was admired and respected by all with
whom she came in contact.

Comrade Mrs. Gaffin was a member of
Sydney Branch, A.S.P., and trustee of
the branch. It is only now when we re-
vive the past that we fully realise how
much she has done for the movement. Her
activity within the branch is only to be
equalled by the manner in which she
consistently supported the press. For years
past our late comrade was inseparable
from the paper and party literature, never
missing an opportunity of assisting in the
selling of same, and she became one of the
best known and most popular workers.

A great worker, a true and faithful
comrade; one who went about her work
in a genial manner, always making
friends; one who never compromised
truth in order to make a friend; one who
never withheld a blow at error for fear of
making an enemy; one who was respect-
ed even by those with whom she differed;
one whose friendship was something to be
cherished—what greater loss could the in-
dividual or movement sustain?

A sad, silent group of comrades and
friends attended the funeral on Saturday
last, our late comrade being buried in
Waverley Cemetery. Comrade Reardon
officiated at the graveside, saying in a
brief speech of appreciation and fare-
well:

"It is a sad mission that brings us to-
gether to-day. A sad day of parting and
farewell."

"In a time that is defiled by cant and
hypocrisy and polluted by sordid greed
and oppression, the cause of liberty and
emancipation can ill afford to lose so
valuable a friend as we are here to bid
farewell to."

"From the womb of our old mother
earth we come, the puny creatures of a
time and chance; for a little while we walk
the shadowy ways of life, and then again
the darkness enfolds us for ever. And in
the few short hours that lie between, we
proletarians know little else but toil and
penury."

"Yet in spite of these things, that
comes from out of the thoughtless crowd
men and women like our late comrade,
who, because they have known the hard-
ships and the rewardless toil, seek to make
life better, cleaner and happier for those
who are to come."

"To our comrade we shall raise a
mighty monument; in our hearts will be
memory live while life is ours, and in the
future, the near future, shall see erected
to her the countless others of our com-
rades who have gone, a monument that
shall last forever—the Workers' Republic
of Labor. And in that time, a happy
people shall seek this spot and pay hom-
age to the memory of one who gave us the
best, that the world might be freed from
poverty, from ignorance and from oppres-
sion."

"As she was true to the Cause, let
us be true also; thus shall we best show
our appreciation of her efforts, and thus shall
it be said of us as we now say of her:
'The earth was better for her having
lived.'"

At the conclusion of Comrade Reardon's
address the "Red Flag" was sung.

At the meeting of the branch execu-
tive on Sunday night the secretary was in-
structed to convey the sympathy of the
branch to Comrade J. Gaffin on the loss
of his comrade and wife. Before the lec-
ture, after a few words by the chairman,
Comrade Blakey, the huge audience en-
dorsed a motion of sympathy with Comrade
J. Gaffin by rising and singing the "Red
Flag."

We are sure that all readers will join
with us in our expression of deepest sym-
pathy with Comrade J. Gaffin, and in
our appreciation of the good work done
by our late comrade.

Surely the workers the N.S.W. have
not yet forgotten the promises of the
Labor Party in regard to unemployment,
although apparently the latter itself has

The above "par" needs no further com-
ment. It is just a reminder of what we
of the revolutionary movement predicted
would happen. After all, we cannot ex-
pect Mr. Storey to worry about the un-
employed. He is too busy praying for
rain.

MARCIA.

INTERNATIONAL

News and Notes.

ITALY.

Getting into Touch with Russia.

"Le Peuple" of March 6th states that the Italian Socialist and Co-operative mission, composed of Cabrini (Secretary of the operatives), Bombacci (Secretary of the Party), and Vodovosoff, which has been appointed to proceed to Copenhagen to interview Litvinoff concerning the re-estimation of relations between Italy and Soviet Russia, was given its passports, but denied the visa of the Danish consulate.

A Commission of Inquiry.

"Le Peuple" of March 3 states that the E.C. of the Italian Socialist Party has decided to send the M.P.'s, Della Seta and Vignati to Vienna and Budapest, to inspect the concentration camps and report on the conditions in which the Hungarian Socialists and Communists are interned.

THE BALKANS.

The Balkan Communist Federation.

An Athens message printed in "Le Peuple" of March 4th, states: "On January 15, '20, there was held a conference of the Balkan Communist Federation, constituted by the Bulgarian Communist Party, the Serbian Communist Labor Party, the Greek Socialist Labor Party, and the Rumanian Socialist Party. Amongst the decisions of the conference, the following was the most important: 'The conference, having taken into consideration the international and inter-Balkan situation resolves on the transformation of the Balkan Socialist Federation into a Communist Federation, affiliated to the Third International.'

The Federation will be the Balkan Section of the Third International, and accepts all its principles and the decisions of its Congresses.

BULGARIA.

"La Nouvelle Internationale" of March states: "In spite of persecution, the Communist movement is developing rapidly. 80,000 copies of Bukharin's 'Communist Programme' have been sold. All the important town councils are in the hands of the Communists, and their meetings are packed. The Government of Stambulinsky has to rely on a White Guard, paid 100 leva a day, and organised with the help of the French General d'Esperey.

Bulgaria has become a centre of reaction, thanks to the solicitations of the Entente. As a protest against the reception of General Denikin, the Socialist Party proclaimed a general strike, on December 25th, which was still in progress on February 18th. Against it the Government has had recourse to all methods: the army, machine guns, cannon, imprisonment of the leaders (Lukanoff). Those still at liberty have had to go into hiding (Kabakieff, Kolaroff, Dimitroff). The Bulgarian proletariat is fighting stubbornly for the Communist ideal.

BOHEMIA.

The Czech Movement.

According to the Berlin "Freiheit," the left wing of the Czech Social-Democratic Party held a congress at Prague, December, 1919, where it adopted a definite programme. This programme begins by pointing out the nationalist oppressive Imperialist character of the new Czechoslovak state which involves the rule of the Czech bourgeoisie of over 3,500,000 South Germans, hundreds of thousands of Slovaks, Poles, Ruthenians, and Magyars. For this, as well as for the reactionary economic and military policy of the new State, the Czech Social Democracy, being in coalition with the bourgeoisie, must bear its share of responsibility. Hence the formation of this Internationalist group, which is supported by a number of important districts. This Left group demands (1) the withdrawal of the Social-Democratic Minister from the Cabinet; (2) the socialisation of production and exchange without compensation; (3) the reconstruction and development of the Workers' Councils (Soviets), which were stifled at their birth by the Government. The Left wing recognises the Dictatorship of the Proletariat as the only possible means whereby the workers can gain and

maintain their power in the State during the period of transition towards Socialism. (4) The adherence of the party to the Third, the only real International. The conference decided to work for these aims within the party and thus maintain the unity of the Socialist forces. The programme finally points out that when fighting for independence as a nation, the Czech workers were often obliged to work side by side with the bourgeoisie; this period is now ended. The Czechs have won national independence—the Czech workers want now to win Socialism.

On February 16th a meeting at Prague of representatives of the Czech Social-Democratic Party unanimously adopted a resolution demanding immediate peace with Soviet Russia, independent of the decisions of the Entente, and the sending of representatives of the organised workers to the Peace Conference. They also called on the Party Executive to get into immediate relations with the Russian Communist Party and the Third International. The meeting, however, did not seem prepared to call on the withdrawal of Labor from the Coalition Government of the Czech Republic. In connection with these resolutions it is interesting to observe that according to the "Alend," the Social-Democratic Deputy Nemece declared in the Czech Parliament that the demand of the workers for immediate Peace with Soviet Russia was occasioned chiefly by the fear that Czechoslovakia might otherwise be too late (in renewing commercial relations, we presume). At the same time the Party has sent Dr. Smeral to Soviet Russia, so as to get into closer touch with the Communist Party and the Third International. Dr. Smeral, although he has not definitely declared himself to be a Bolshevik, belongs to the extreme Left of the Czech Party.

FRANCE.

The French Railway Strike.

The General Confederation of Labor publishes a manifesto in "L'Humanite" of March 4th, in which it declares that the result of the railway strike was a defeat for the Government and its reactionary majority in the Chamber, owing to the united stand of the railwaymen and the promise of support by the full forces of organised labor. The C.G.T., however, states that the main question of nationalisation has not been dealt with, and explains that by "nationalisation" it does not mean either State control or control by any corporation, but ownership by the community and control by a joint counsel of State producers and consumers' organisations, with regional councils elected on a similar basis according to the economic divisions of the country. In all questions affecting remuneration of the workers, their economic organisation must be consulted. The manifesto emphasises the necessity for a transition from the present anarchical and wasteful system to a concentration of all productive forces on the most economical basis.

"Reconstructing" the International.

In "Le Peuple" of March 5th, Paul Faure states that the E.C. of the French Socialist Party intends now (1) to send a delegate to Moscow, to put the case of the Party before Lenin (2) to send delegates to Germany, Switzerland, Spain and England to plead the cause of international proletarian unity; (3) to send an "ambassador" to the Italian Party, which has the confidence of the Bolshevik chiefs, to enlist its aid in the reconstruction of the International.

A Peasant Revolt.

"L'Humanite," of March 7th, reports that an agricultural laborers' strike has begun in the district of Bas-Adour (S. W. corner of France). The metayer (stock and land-lease) peasant farmers complain of having to pay their rents in kind, and instance a case of a holder of 2 hectares who in one year had to pay 1,100 francs worth (£44) of agricultural products, and 340 francs (£12) in cattle and poultry. Imposing demonstrations of organised rural workers, headed by red flags, have taken place at St. Vincent-de-Tyrosse and Peycharade at Rivesaltes ("Peuple," March 9th) a general strike has taken place in sympathy with the land workers.

—"The Call," England.

Interview with Bela Kun

Reprinted from "The Liberator"

(Continued from Last Week).

Socialisation.

I asked him to what extent they had put socialisation actually into effect in Soviet Hungary.

"The proletarian state at one stroke expropriated all industries employing more than twenty workers. We retained the grain monopoly that had been introduced during the war. We monopolised coal, wood, iron, and other staple resources, as well as all foreign trade."

"The greatest obstacle to socialisation was presented by the difficulty of liquidating the industrial holdings of foreign capitalists, although this did not affect the actual transfer of the factories and mills to working class possession. It was just a question of time until the workers assumed complete control."

"Did production diminish in Soviet Hungary?"

"There was no greater diminution of production during the dictatorship of the proletariat than in any capitalistic nation at that time. Production decreased at the beginning in all branches except agriculture, but later the workers enforced their own working discipline, and production was increased 100 per cent.; in the leather and shoe factories throughout Hungary, the rise was 20 to 30 per cent."

"How was food controlled and rationed?"

"We assumed power at the instant of a crisis in our food supply. Nevertheless, we maintained rations on the previous scale, in spite of the necessity of providing our army with abundant foodstuffs. We standardised the rate of living by handing over the non-rationed foodstuffs to the Factory Co-operatives, instead of letting this food be exploited by profiteers."

I mentioned the sensational stories of the lavish mode of living among the Communists, as related by their enemies.

Bela Kun laughed. "Even if we were the gourmards we are alleged to be," he said, "we should not have been so stupid as to eat luxuriously, since this would have been used against us at once by bourgeois propagandists. As a matter of fact, we only had square meals when we visited the Red Army front."

The Peasants.

"What was the attitude of the peasantry toward the communist government?"

"The landless peasantry and very small landholders were enthusiastic adherents to the communist regime. Seventy-five per cent. of our Red Army consisted of agricultural laborers and small landholders. The majority of the small landed proprietors passively accepted the dictatorship. It was only the rich land-gentry and estate owners who were dogged counter-revolutionaries."

"Did the peasants approve of the communists' programme of land-reform?"

"Yes. I must remark that in our country—as contrasted with Russia—there was no division of land. About 50 per cent. of the fertile land of Hungary was held in the form of vast estates by the aristocracy, clergy, and middle class. All these lands were socialised at once, and kept undivided. One of the most significant results of our four and a half months of proletarian dictatorship in Hungary was that we proved the possibility of conserving large-scale agricultural production, along with expropriation. The conception of the 'anti-collectivist mind of the peasant' was thus relegated to the realm of Kautskyian fiction."

Fiscal Policy.

"What was the financial policy of Soviet Hungary?"

"It was in this field that we were least of all able to make any noteworthy contributions to communist history. Still, the fundamental principles of the fiscal policy of the proletarian state were established upon a firm basis. Expenditure was covered by the revenue from socialised industries, and from the general taxes levied against the remnants of private property. We employed the device of 'class price-fixing'—meaning simply that the workers could buy commodities at a lower rate than the spender of an unearned income; and this increased revenues from the socialised industries, while at the same time it diverted more of the unearned income

ment of surviving private capital into the pockets of the community. The proletarian state took possession of the banks and laid the foundations of a vast system of moneyless trade. The greatest difficulties in this field arose because we had no currency of our own, but were constrained to use the same banknotes as the states of the former Austro-Hungarian monarchy."

(Continued Next Week);

THE STATE AND THE REVOLUTION.

Continued from front page

workers themselves in the midst of revolution, Marx and Engels deduced certain very vital principles as to the form of the proletarian State which have only now been brought into incarnation in the Soviet form of the Workers' Republic of Russia.

But meanwhile the Paris Commune went down in blood; the First Workingmen's International expired with it in grief; and Marx died before the faint dawn of the Second International, which Engels just lived to see.

But in that Second International were the seeds of opportunism. Kautsky entered as the commentator of Marxism and the thinker of the Second International. Just as Constantine captured the revolt of the Christian slaves by prostituting their religion and making it respectable, so tendencies were at work in the Second International to whittle down Marxism and make it fit into the catchwords of opportunism and jingoism. Kautsky became the Constantine of the proletarian movement. De Leon describes in his "Flashlights of the Amsterdam Congress" the Kautsky resolution allowing collaboration between Labor and Capital in bourgeois governments under certain circumstances; and its disastrous consequences in France by the entry of Millerand, then a Socialist nominee, into the government, was only the prelude to the colossal downfall of the Second International in the recent world war.

All theory! The practical men would say as to the Marxian principles. But these theories are instinct with life or death for the working class. And in that very sneer hide the seeds of opportunism. In that very "slight departure" from the uncompromising Marxian dogmas lay the ammunition for the world war and all its horrors.

So now we have a Third International, and the Third International has its philosopher—Lenin. Thinker and "practical man" combined, he restores to us the pristine purity of the Marxian principles. In him Marxism attains its living embodiment. In him the calmness, the patience, the love of the working class, the sure key to present happenings, the imperturbability in face of catastrophe and defeat, the clear eye, the vision of facts beyond phrases—in him all these find marvellous expression. In praising him, we praise him not only as an exponent but also as a product of the Marxian philosophy. In him Karl Marx and Frederick Engels find their grand vindication.

This book, "The State and the Revolution," ends its seventh chapter with an apology—the things he has been writing about are coming to pass, and he must buckle on the armour of revolution. Hence the eighth chapter he cannot "write for a long time." But it is faithfully written in the glorious record of the working class revolution in Russia. Never in history has there been such an example of the complete harmony between word and deed, between the gospel and the crusade, as in this dramatic ending of Lenin's book.

D. I. J.

—"The International."

THIRROUL BRANCH.

Comrades are reminded that the branch holds an **Economic Class** every back Sunday at 10 a.m. Any member of the working class is welcome.

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Herod Outdone

Mr. Cyril Emery, president of the Broken Hill Mining Managers' Association on April 10th said:

"While agents of the A.M.A. are charging the Broken Hill mining and treatment companies with callous indifference towards the health of the miners, and bucking inquiry into the working conditions of the miners, a highly skilled technical commission, appointed by the New South Wales Board of Trade, is at work at the present moment on the mining field making a most complete and exhaustive investigation."

We are aware that the technical commission is at work in Broken Hill. But evidently Mr. Emery has forgotten that the Broken Hill mining and treatment companies, were forced into having an inquiry by the A.M.A.

Mr. Emery has forgotten one thing in the matter of health, and that is the abnormally high infantile death rate of Broken Hill and Port Pirie which are the highest in Australia if not the world. What is the technical commission going to do in this matter? The following is the average infantile death rate per 1000 births for the past 12 years in the undermentioned districts, from and including 1907 to 1918:—Adelaide, 72.8; Port Curtis Division, Queensland (including Mt. Morgan), 74.6; Sydney, 75.5; Trans-Darling Plains Division (including Broken Hill), 105.75; Port Pirie infantile death rate from and including 1908 to 1918 is 107.585 per 1000 deaths.

It will be noticed that the death rate in Broken Hill where the companies' mines are and at Port Pirie where the Broken Hill companies' smelters are, the infantile death rate is very much higher here than it is elsewhere.

Will Mr. Emery explain this, or will Mr. Maxwell, M.H.R., who had a lot to say about Broken Hill some days ago.

We (the A.M.A.) say that this abnormally high infantile death rate is caused by the unhealthy working conditions, and the overwork of one of the parents in the Broken Hill mines and the Port Pirie Smelting Works.

Professor Thomas Oliver, M.D.F.R., C.P., Physician Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle-on-Tyne, Professor of Physiology at Durham University, writing on plumbism (lead poisoning) says:—

"Lead destroys the reproductive powers of both men and women, but its special influence upon women during pregnancy is the cause of a great destruction of human life. A large percentage of children born of lead workers die within the first few months of life."

Professor Oliver quotes another authority (Lewis) on plumbism (lead poisoning): "Taking 7 healthy women who were married to lead workers, and in whom there was a total of 32 pregnancies. Lewis tells us that the results were

as follows:—11 miscarriages, 1 still birth, 8 children died within their first year after birth, 4 in the second year, 5 in the third, and one subsequent to this, leaving only 2 children out of 32 pregnancies as likely to live to manhood."

Dr. Busnell, Acting Superintendent of the Broken Hill Hospital, in an interview with "Barrier Daily Truth," said:—

"As I said before, the men I do examine are chronically poisoned. I am right up to the hilt, though, as the result of the cases I do know of, with those whose arguments are on the side of the contention that lead poisoning (plumbism) is prevalent and disastrous."

In an interview with the "Barrier Miner" recently Dr. Steven, a well known and highly respected medical practitioner with a very large practice amongst the miners of Broken Hill said:—

(Speaking of the Broken Hill miners) "a very large percentage of them suffer from lung deterioration, and a very much larger percentage of them suffer from plumbism (lead poisoning) than the mining companies are prepared to admit."

Dr. Birks, Surgeon Superintendent of the Broken Hill Hospital (now on leave) says:—

"A great many people," said Dr. Birks, "are more afraid of dust than lead in these mines, but I hold the opinion that lead poisoning is the thing to be feared here."

We wish to point out the above facts, and the suffering of the little children.

We consider this the real cause of the very high infantile death rate at Broken Hill and Port Pirie.

We fail to see where the technical commission is going to alter this frightful state of affairs.

We would like to point out that the Broken Hill miners are not out fighting for technical commissions, but are out fighting for life and health.

The Broken Hill miners are determined to put an end to the conditions that condemn them to premature ill health and an early grave, and their children to death in their infancy.

Whilst the owners of the Broken Hill mines have stood aside wallowing in luxury, and have contributed nothing to lessen this horror, and caring little whether the miner died from an occupational disease 30 years before his time, or whether his children die in their infancy or not.

It is necessary for the companies to submit something more tangible and logical than a technical commission to prolong the lives of the miners, and save their children from certain destruction.

We invite Mr. Emery or Mr. Maxwell to explain this position. We have invited them to do so before, but their reply has failed to come to hand.

The Broken Hill workers are determined to fight this fight to a successful issue, they are tired of the obey and die moral preached by political tricksters and carpet baggers.

We make no apology for the stand we have taken on this occasion regardless of the misrepresentation of a few flimsy self styled journalists plying for hire at any price.

In their callous efforts to pile up dividends the Broken Hill mining companies have outdone Herod, their system is less tragic, but the results are the same.

A.M.A., Trades Hall, Broken Hill

A. S. P.

NEWS AND NOTES

SYDNEY BRANCH.

The Wednesday night programme for the last two weeks has been lectures on literature by Com. A. S. Reardon. The first subject was "Ghazal Khayyam," and the second "Rudyard Kipling." Both lectures were keenly appreciated, and the latter especially so, perhaps because it came as a surprise to many of the audience.

Kipling has been associated so long with jingoistic verse and sentimental patriotism that many people, especially in the Socialist movement, whose only feeling for that sort of poetry is disgust, forget or overlook the fact that in his early days, Kipling wrote some fine poetry from the proletariat viewpoint, and this applies especially to his songs and ballads of soldier life in the ranks. Com. Reardon emphasised the fact that since Kipling changed his style to simple jingoism he ceased to be a man of genius and became simply a master class hack; this is amply borne out by the fact that since the Boer war of 1899—when the "Absent-minded Beggar" was published, Kipling as a poet died, his publications since rouse little interest and certainly cause no stir in literary circles.

Com. Reardon will lecture next Wednesday on "Wah Whimian," concluding his series with an address on "The Modern Poets of Revolt."

On Sunday, May 9th, Mr. F. E. Pulsford lectured in the hall on "Why Socialists should be co-operators."

There was a good deal of discussion after the address and arrangements were made for a debate which will eventuate in the near future.

Com. Simonoff who was to lecture on the following Sunday, received intimation from the authorities that as the War Precautions Act was still in operation, he was not at liberty to lecture at present, consequently he was not able to occupy

the platform. Com. Thomas stepped in to fill the breach, however, and lectured on "Revolution and the World's Crisis." This, we are sorry to say, will be Com. Thomas's last lecture for some time, he is going to Queensland on an organising tour; our regret at losing such a noble member of our branch will only be tempered by the fact that he will be spreading the Revolutionary Doctrine in Queensland, and will be doing good necessary work there. We have had no request lately from that State for propagandists, and in Townsville we have a branch in process of formation, so in those circumstances, we can only bid Com. Thomas go and prosper, while those who have to stay at home in Sydney put our shoulders to the wheel, harder than ever to make up for his loss.

The Sydney Branch have formed a study circle, which has been inaugurated with great success, likewise its long desire to organise a Socialist Sunday School on scientific and not Puerile Sentimental lines, is at last approaching fruition. We hope to start about the end of the month, and we have plenty of prospective scholars. This will be a serious undertaking, because we realise that with children, above all, a solid foundation must be laid, they must be taught fundamental facts, and not merely to fly red flags and call themselves Socialists.

Space is running short, but the report would not be complete without mentioning the fine literature paper sales for the last two Sundays.

The Manager of the Literature Department has expressed himself well pleased with the Branch's efforts, all have been broken, and the sales of "State and Revolution" have satisfied and even surprised the most optimistic.

MARCIA REARDON, Asst. S.

NOTICE!

ON WET SUNDAYS WHEN NO MEETING CAN BE HELD IN SYDNEY DOMAIN, THERE WILL BE A MEETING IN THE SYDNEY BRANCH HALL, LIVERPOOL ST.

LECTURE EVERY SUNDAY

A.S.P. Hall,
Liverpool St.

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